Research being Made - 1934

EX-SLAVE STUDY TO FURNISH 300 JOBS

One of the biggest of the white-collar projects sponsored by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration has been launched. This plan is one of the most unique and significent of the historical and sociological surveys conducted. This project is a study of the needs and a collection of the testimony of the ex-slaves of the United States.

The study and survey will provide approximately three- hundred white-collar jobs. It is an all-Negro project, operating in the states of the Ohio River Valley and the lower South. The planning and execution of the whole scheme will be in the hands of a group of Negro scholars headed by Professor Lawrence D. Reddick, director of the division of History and government, Kentucky State College, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, eminent sociologist, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson, editor of the Journal of Negro History, are serving in the roles of continual advisors.

SCIENTISTS ADVISE FEDERAL RESEARCH

Program for 6-Year Study to Cost $16,000,000 Is Laid Before President.

WOULD AID IDLE IN FIELD

Group, Headed by Karl Compton Lists Varied Subjects Held Nationally Vital.

12-15-34

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Exhaustive study by competent scientists of the principal technical problems facing this counttry is decommended to President Roosevelt by the Science Advisory Board in a report made public today. The study would expendue for six years and cost $16,000,000.

The board, appointed by the President July 31, 1933, tried to get the plan started under the public works program, but Secretary Ickes and his advisers found no legal justification for expending public works funds for such a survey.

The problems recommended for sutdy included long-distance transmission of electric power by new processes, the possibility of creating new industries, natural resources in their economic, social and political relations; study of air masses to further weather prediction, dissipation of fog by artificial means, characteristics and properties of various substances at extreme temperatures and other experimentation that might be of industrial value.

Plan Has Employment Phase.

Besides the material benefits to the nation which might result, the employment relief which the program would afford to scientists and research workers was stressed by the board, which is headed by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The report, in discussion of various subjects recommended for study, said:

"Meteorology—The new technique involves supplementing the meteorological observations taken at the surface of the earth by high altitude measurements of temperature, pressure and humidity obtained by instruments in airplanes or balloons. In this way, the character and motions of the great continental air masses may be studied and their future behavior predicted with much greater certainty than at present.

"Soil mechanics—It is suggested that, under the auspices of several widely distributed engineering schools, the necessary physical constants be obtained for the soils characteristic of various important regions to permit the application of this new theory to the design of future construction projects in these regions.

"Sewage disposal—This is one of America's most important public works problems. The annual investment in sewage treatment works is now comparable with, and probably exceeds, that in water supply and is of the order of $100,000,000 per year.

"Fog dissipation—A method has been invented and tested during the past two years which is successful in dissipating fogs created artificially in the laboratory and which gives reasonable promise of being capable of development to produce clear patches or holes of a few thousand square feet in area in a natural fog.

Field for Mineral Research.

"Mineral Resources.—These investigations include the filling of gaps in primary statistics, ratios of costs, wages and selling prices; capacity, reserve, depletion; mechanization in relation to employment and costs; relations of Federal to State control of minerals; taxes, tariffs, cartels, markets; mining laws, domestic and foreign; possibility of advantageous reciprocal exchange of minerals with other nations.

"Geographical and Geological Surveys.—Fundamental knowledge regarding the interior of the earth may be gained through geophysical methods developed during the past dozen years, but thus far practically applied only for the purpose of oil or mineral prospecting.

"Social Problems of Mechanization.—Technical grogress has two principal industrial results: it creates new industries and new employment; it displaces labor by machines. This latter result has both good and bad effects. The problems thus created are of enormous social import.

"Grants in Aid of Research in Basic Sciences.—It should not be forgotten that back of applied science must be continual progress in pure science. Consequently any well-balanced program of research should provide for continued productive activity in the fundamental sciences."

Four Major Studies On Race Education Are Released

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20—Four major studies on the education of colored persons, have been issued by the Office of Education in the past year, according to the annual report of Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the Interior, made public last Monday.

The studies included a survey of secondary education for colored persons, a survey of the education of colored teachers, a study of rural education among colored persons under Jeanes supervising teachers, and a background study of colored college students.

Another study which is nearly completed, Mr. Ickes reports, investigates the availability and accessibility of schools and the quality of education furnished colored children in rural communities. All the data for this study, he says, have been collected and tabulated, and the report is now being written.